



The Southwester

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Serving the Southwest and Near Southeast Community

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June 2009

Circulation 12,000

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Published by The Southwest Neighborhood Assembly, Inc. — a 501(c) (3) charitable and educational corporation. Send messages to thesouthwester@yahoo.com

Call Box Honors Thurgood Marshall

By Charles Allen

On Sunday afternoon, May 17, the 55th anniversary of the Brown v. Board of Education decision in the United States Supreme Court, I joined neighbors in Southwest for the unveiling and dedication of a call box in honor of Justice Thurgood Marshall in the G Street Circle at 1st and G Street, SW.



Annie King Phillips poses with her collage, which appears in the G St. SW call box.

Justice Marshall's wife, Cecilia "Cissy" Marshall joined us for the event. Mr. and Mrs. Marshall lived for several years at 64 G Street, SW, which is why the location was chosen as a way to help commemorate and honor Justice Marshall's enormous contributions. Thelma Jones was our Mistress of Ceremonies, and many people were acknowledged and invited to share a few words.

A few highlights came from Roger Wilkins, who shared a story about how

he and his wife lived down the block from Justice Marshall when he was still the Solicitor General serving under President Johnson. Mr. Wilkins, an acclaimed civil rights attorney and long-time Southwest resident recalled the friendship they shared when he served with the Justice, who was also his neighbor.

ANC Commissioner David Sobelsohn gave a great historical perspective about the impact of Justice Marshall's life on every facet of our lives. His words helped both the young and old in attendance understand just how powerful and meaningful his work was to our country and its legacy.

Finally, with the speeches concluded, Thelma Jones brought up Ms. Annie King Phillips (the artist responsible for creating the display) to join Mrs. Marshall in unveiling the call box to great applause.

Special thanks goes out to Lida Churchville who has been working tirelessly on with the SWNA History

Task Force and the Call Box Committee, St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, Cultural Tourism for helping support call box renovations across the city, the Earth Conservation Corps for painting and preparing the call boxes throughout Southwest, and countless neighbors who have volunteered hours and hours to research the history, recruit the artists, and transform these abandoned call boxes into pieces of art that celebrate our history and our communities.



Rendering of the Future Consolidated Forensics Lab at 4th and E, SW.

New Forensics Lab Hits Major Stumbling Block

By The Southwester Staff

After an appeal by Tompkins Builders, Mayor Adrian Fenty has withdrawn the proposed contract with the developer which was awarded the contract for the construction of the new Consolidated Forensics Lab in Southwest. Tompkins Builders claims that their bid promised a quicker completion at a lower cost for the project.

The appeal board found irregularities in the previously announced award to Whiting-Turner. When the announcement of the Whiting-Turner contract was made earlier this month, Mayor Adrian Fenty was quoted as saying "This is our most important public safety, public health and homeland security project. It is critical that we keep this project moving on the fast track." Unfortunately, the \$133 million project is now on hold.

This new delay is not only a blow to devel-

opment in Southwest, but it is also a matter of public safety as the District Police continue to operate without their own DNA lab, and must depend on the FBI lab at Quantico to slowly wade through thousands of unsolved cases.

The city awarded the construction management contract to Jacobs Engineering last year. The project design architect is HOK (formerly Hellmuth, Obata + Kassabaum). The total project cost will be about \$220 million, including specialized equipment. The Federal Budget proposal made by President Barack Obama includes \$14 million towards this amount.

When completed, the 287,000 square foot CFL will stand six stories and include two levels of underground parking. Designers anticipate the project will qualify for a LEED Gold green building certification.

Waterfront Developers Acquire Major Parcels

By The Southwester Staff

On May 13th, the developers of the new Southwest Waterfront signed an agreement with the holder of the leases for the Channel Inn and Phillips restaurant that will guarantee these businesses space in the new development. In exchange, the company that currently controls these parcels, SWW LLC, in which JBG Companies holds a controlling interest, will give up its existing leases when redevelopment begins.

This agreement clears a major obstacle to redevelopment in Southwest, because the remaining Waterfront properties are owned by the District, which has committed itself to the project. At this point, the only outstanding long-term leaseholders are the Capital Yacht Club and Washington Boat Lines. PN Hoffman is close to finalizing agreements with both leaseholders, which should be completed

this summer.

The design and community outreach phases of the project recommence in September, 2009.

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Members of the Springbrook High School JROTC raise the flag before the annual Blessing of the Fleet at the Southwest Waterfront.



ANC 6D Update

By David Sobelsohn

Our ANC business meeting Monday, May 11 consisted of equal parts votes and reports or presentations. The ANC voted unanimously to:

- Amend its voluntary agreement with Vie de France, 600 Maryland Ave., SW, to conform with the restaurant's recently modified liquor license, which now permits it to sell liquor and have music at an outdoor courtyard. No one lives close to the restaurant, a good corporate citizen of Southwest.

- Support a private application to hold a barbecue with music from noon to 7 p.m. Sunday, May 24 in Randall Park. Pria Stellmacher, the applicant, pledged to place her loudspeakers as far away as possible from Southwest residences; and to welcome any neighborhood resident to join the party without charge.

- Urge WMATA and the DC Department of Transportation to move a WMATA bus stop, currently at the southeast corner of 7th and G Streets, SW, to the intersection's northeast corner. The WMATA bus stop is currently across the street from the Circulator stop. It makes sense to consolidate them.

- Support plans for two races through the north and west nonresidential edges of our community: the October 4 Army Ten-Miler and the October 25 Marine Corps Marathon. For decades, both races have come through a part of Southwest without incident.

Our principal presentation came from Michael Stevens, executive director of the Capitol Riverfront Business Improvement District (BID). Stevens described his BID's work and the future of its 500-acre district, which extends from Buzzards Point in Southwest to 15th St., SE, and from the freeway south to the Anacostia. Stevens predicted his BID eventually would cover nearly 20,000 residents. To serve these residents, he expects two supermarkets to open within the next five years just across South Capitol Street: Harris Teeter at 4th and M Streets and Whole Foods

at 800 New Jersey Avenue.

The Office of Planning's Melissa Bird confirmed that OP expects this summer to review current Southwest DC zoning and compare it with what's actually been built. She promised neighborhood workshops this fall, before rezoning of any substantial part of the neighborhood.

Commissioner Andy Litsky announced "Southwest Night" Wednesday July 1, on which Fort McNair will hold a 90-minute Twilight Tattoo, starting with pre-ceremony pageantry at 7 p.m. The tattoo includes marching by the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment and a performance by the U.S. Army Band. For more information, visit www.mdw.army.mil/tlt.

The ANC will hold its next public business meeting starting 7 p.m. Monday, June 8. We expect to meet at St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, 600 M St., SW.

David Sobelsohn is Secretary and Commissioner for ANC6D.

"The Bullpen" Opens

Just a few weeks after demolition of the former WMATA bus garage began at Half and N Streets, "The Bullpen," variously described as "Festival Park" and "Beer Garden," has opened on the south end of the block. Georgetown Events and



Headfirst Sports have leased 15000 square feet from Akridge Realty to operate the site on Nationals' game days. The lease runs only for the current baseball season. The concept includes a large tent for beer, wine and frozen drink sales, food concessions provided by third parties, and a supervised children's sports area.

Southwest June Community Calendar

TUE., JUNE 2: Nationals Home Game, 7:05 p.m.

WED., JUNE 3: Art & Spirit Coffeehouse, 7 p.m. Arena Stage's Voices of Now Ensemble and Mentor Ensemble. Jefferson Junior High School students and local high school students will present two short plays. Coffee and desserts, followed by audience Q & A. Free, donations accepted for artist's honorarium. St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, 600 M St., SW.

WED., JUNE 3: Nationals Home Game, 7:05 p.m.

THU., JUNE 4: Nationals Home Game, 7:05 p.m.

FRI, JUNE 5: Nationals Home Game, 7:05 p.m.

SAT., JUNE 6: Nationals Home Game, 7:05 p.m.

SUN., JUNE 7: Nationals Home Game, 1:35 p.m.

SUN., JUNE 7: "On Beads of Prayer," 10:30 a.m. History of Anglican prayer beads and how to pray with them, followed by stringing beads for you or military members. Free to learn about beads, \$12 for prayer bead kit. Coffee and snacks served. Contact DiDi Smith, 703-734-1978. St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, 600 M Street, SW.

MON., JUNE 8: ANC 6D Monthly business meeting, 7 p.m., St. Augustine's Church, 600 M St., SW.

TUE., JUNE 9: Nationals Home Game, 7:05 p.m.

WED., JUNE 10: Nationals Home Game, 7:05 p.m.

THU., JUNE 11: Councilmember Tommy Wells office hours, Channel Inn, 8-9 a.m.

THU., JUNE 11: Simplicity Circle discusses "Menu for the Future—What's Eating America, (free) 414 4th St., SE. RSVP 202-546-3933 or mpb56064@yahoo.com

THU., JUNE 11: Nationals Home Game, 4:35 p.m.

SAT., JUNE 13: NCAWPA Paddlefest: BBQ; 10am-2pm. Please bring \$5 for food donation, Anacostia Community Boat-house Association, 1115 O Street, SE

SAT., JUNE 13: The Queen of Sheba Missionary Ministry, Friendship Baptist Church, 900 Delaware Ave. SW presents "THE GLORY TRAIN HEAVEN BOUND" (Four Seasons Play & Dinner). 1:00-3:00 p.m. For more information, call 202-488-7417

WED., JUNE 17: AARP meeting at River Park, 1311 Delaware Ave. SW., 12 noon

THU., JUNE 18: Police Service Area (PSA) 104 Monthly Community 7-8:30 p.m. at Town Square Towers Condominium Apartments, 700 7th Street, SW

FRI, JUNE 19: Nationals Home Game, 7:05 p.m.

SAT., JUNE 20: Church Breakfast \$5; Christ Methodist, I St. & Wesley Pl SW, entrance across from SW Library.

SAT., JUNE 20: Third Annual Ward 6 Family Day and Celebrity Kickball Game at Rosedale Recreation Center, 1700 Gales Street, NE, 11 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. For more information, contact Daniel Conner at dconner@dccouncil.us or 202-724-8063.

SAT., JUNE 20: Nationals Home Game, 7:05 p.m.

SUN., JUNE 21: Nationals Home Game, 1:35 p.m.

TUE., JUNE 23: Nationals Home Game, 7:05 p.m.

WED., JUNE 24: Oakland Girls Choir of Pittsburgh, 7:30 p.m. "Voices of Women" musical settings of poems by Emily Dickinson, Christina Rossetti, Sara Teasdale, Jane Griner, Saint Teresa of Avila, Mother Teresa of Calcutta, Julian of Norwich, Hildegard of Bingen, and Mechtilde of Magdeburg. Free. Reception follows performance. St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, 600 M St., SW.

WED., JUNE 24: Nationals Home Game, 7:05 p.m.

THU., JUNE 25: National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association meeting at SW Library, K St. & Wesley Pl, 12:30 pm

THU., JUNE 25: Nationals Home Game, 7:05 p.m.

FRI., JUNE 26: St. Augustine's Game Night, 7 p.m. This free event, with a Potluck supper. Bring your favorite games and enjoy a fun evening of fellowship. St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, 600 M St., SW

SUN., JUNE 28: Grounds for Discussion, 10:30 a.m. Kelly Anne Melsted, Environmental Education Specialist with DC's Dept. of Parks and Recreation: what DC is doing to "go green". St. Augustine's Episcopal Church 600 M St., SW

WEEKLY, BI-WEEKLY

TUES. - 10 am - 2 pm - Outdoor Farmer's Market - M St. SE at 3rd. St. SE between DOT buildings

THURS. - DUSK to 8:45 pm - Weekly outdoor movies from the 1980's, Plaza behind DOT Bldg, New Jersey SE & N SE

WEDS. - 12 - 2 pm - Free outdoor concerts, rock, etc. Bring your bag lunch or buy here - Plaza behind DOT Headquarters Bldg - New Jersey Ave. SE & N SE, a block south of Metro station

WED. EVES. in May and June- Free Outdoor Army band and marching units - Ft. McNair, 4th & P St. SW, seating in stands and grass 6 pm, show starts at 7 pm

THURS., SEPTEMBER 17, 6:30 p.m., St. Augustine's Interfaith Book Discussion Group: Potluck supper. Group won't meet during the summer, but participants should read "The Secret Life of Bees" by Sue Monk Kidd to discuss in the fall. St. Augustine's Episcopal Church library, 600 M St., SW. Contact Deeanna Burleson, 703-303-6143.

The Southwester

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Circulation - 12,000

Please send material for The Southwester by e-mail to thesouthwester@yahoo.com.

If you have a message for the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly, Inc. please leave it after the tone at 202-554-8560.

Southwester Staff

Dale MacIver, *Editor Emeritus*;

Glenn Favreau and Greg Davis, *Editors*;

Herbert Holmes, *Distribution*;

Electronic Ink, *Design & Layout*

Silver Communications, *Printer*

Please submit calendar items for July events to voice mail - 202-554-8560 or by email to thesouthwester@yahoo.com by Wednesday, June 17, 2009.

SWNA Discusses Current State of Southwest Youth

Teens and pre-teens make up a large portion of our community, and their well-being is increasingly linked to each of ours. They are active in their schools and in our neighborhood, and many of them work hard to make our community a better place. They are also the individuals that best represent our future.



SWNA Report

By Peter Atlee

Recent efforts to reform the District's education and recreation services have led to the curtailment of services available to Southwest youth. Unfortunately, that curtailment and the increasing development in our area have also been accompanied by slight increases in risky and illegal behaviors.

Ward 6 Councilmember Tommy Wells has started his Juvenile Crime Task Force and the MPD has dedicated a group of officers that have experience dealing with youth to work in our area.

All of this has led too many members of our community to focus on the negative activities in which a small group of youth is involved.

On May 18, the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly dedicated its monthly meeting to address the current state of youth in our community, hearing a panel discussion of how we can better serve our youth. In dedicating a meeting to this topic, the Assembly intended to highlight the positive things being done by our youth residents, discuss the root causes of any dangerous behaviors, and identify opportunities to moderate those behaviors and keep youth on the right track.

The panel consisted of five individuals with experience dealing with youth and with our community—Dr. Beryl Rice, ANC Commissioner Rhonda Hamilton, King Greenleaf Recreation Center Director Henry Moton IV, Ms. Ashley Forman, and Ms. Yvette Rector.

After discussing the many programs with which they are involved (everything from Computers-for-Kids to Voices of Now to Sophisticated Ladies), the panel turned to larger issues. Their programs do more than give children something to do after school; they give them confidence and teach them

Education Achievements to be Celebrated

SWNA will hold its monthly community meeting on June 22 at 7:30pm. Our June meeting will recognize outstanding students that have received awards for their work during this past school year. We hope to welcome the outstanding principals and teachers in our area as well. Our keynote speaker, City Council Chairman Vincent Gray, will speak in honor of these exceptional individuals. There may also be a discussion of the council's legislation to charge a five cent fee for shopping bags. We hope to see you there.

to express themselves through words and art. Communication and self-confidence, too often lacking in youth, can manifest as acting out.

Perhaps some of the most interesting comments of the night came in response to a question about how to get adults involved with children; after all, as the questioner pointed out, sometimes it is not the children who do not want to get involved, but the adults. Our panel encouraged interaction outside of structured programs—comments, made respectfully and not judgmentally, about appropriate behavior or a simple greeting on the street can go a long way to showing youth that adults are not the enemy, but are in fact a resource.

There was also a discussion spurred by a recent exercise in Voices of Now about how teenagers think adults view about them; the discussion revealed how these pre-conceived notions of adolescents may become self-fulfilling prophecies, and concluded with the mature insight that children in the program realize adults do not want children to repeat their mistakes and have good intentions.

The night ended with SWNA President Carolyn Mitchell emphasizing the importance of youth to our future. Moving forward we will look for more ways to reach out to the community and alert youth to the programs and activities available in our community.

We would also like to highlight the upcoming Southwest Unity Day to be held on August 1 from 9:00am to 8:00pm. Mark your calendars!

Peter Atlee is the Vice President of the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly.

What is the CBCC?

Making Sure Community Benefits Live Up to their Name

By Peter Atlee

The Southwest and Near Southeast neighborhoods of Washington, DC are populated by some of the most politically active individuals in the entire city, maybe even the country. We have a plethora of community organizations working to affect changes that will improve our community.

For the past several years one of those organizations has been the Near Southeast/

Southwest Community Benefits Coordinating Council (CBCC); though its name has gone through several iterations, the group has been working for nearly a decade to ensure that our residents benefit from the omnipresent development taking over our streets.

The CBCC is a coalition of representatives from several existing neighborhood organizations—including the Southwest Neighbor-

Continued on Page 11

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For further information about River Park Friends,
call Coralie Farlee at 202-554-4407,
or Joyce Bouvier (Secretary) at 202-488-4419.

River Park Friends supports The Southwester

River Park Friends is a private, non-profit tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization in Southwest Washington, D.C., not affiliated with River Park Mutual Homes, Inc.

What Can I Do This Summer?

By Meg Brinckman

Elementary and Middle School students in Southwest will have many ways to answer this question over the next few months. A community group, growing out



of Tommy Well's Youth Task Force, is working to make sure that parents and children in Southwest are well informed of the many opportunities to fill their children's summer with learning and fun in a safe environment.

Below is a listing of dates, times and descriptions of programs and activities that will be available at Amidon-Bowen, the Southwest Library, and King-Greenleaf Recreation Center. All programs require parents to register students. Some programs provide breakfast and lunch. Most programs run from the end of June into August. Dates and times are subject to change, so check them with each individual program.

Summer School:

DCPS Summer School for Amidon-Bowen Elementary students will be at Tyler Elementary and for our Jefferson Middle

School students it will be at Stuart Hobson Middle School, June 29 through Aug. 5.

An after school program, **DC One**, is available for elementary students at the Tyler location only. Information about enrollment, dates and times is available at the respective schools.

Jefferson Middle School will not hold any summer programs or activities this year because it will undergo an extensive renovation.

Summer 2009 Activities:

Heads Up Summer of Learning Program - 100 kids, grades K-6, free, 12:30 pm to 6:pm. Location: Amidon-Bowen. Call Anita Allen 544-4437

Out of School Time Program (Dept of Parks) - 60 kids, ages 4-12, free for some/sliding scale for others, 7 a. to 6 pm. Location: Amidon-Bowen. Contact DPR Intake, 671-0372.

South Washington/West of the River Family Strengthening Collaborative (SWWR). 2009 Summer Enrichment Program, 40 kids, ages 6-13, 9am to 4 pm, free for TANIF recipients or \$35/week. Location: St. Augustine's Episcopal Church. Contact: Idena Sanders 488-7997 ext. 21.

King-Greenleaf Summer Program - 35 kids, ages 6-14, 9am to 5 pm, Free. Location: King-Greenleaf Recreation Center.

Career Camp - I.M.A.G.E. and Sports Professional Camp - ages 14-15. Contact the Rec Center for information, 645-7454

KIDS Set Sail- National Maritime Heritage Foundation - free for 10 SW Elementary or Middle School students per week, 10am to 4 pm. Location: Amidon-Bowen and Gangplank Marina. Call or e-mail Blair Overman, 547-1250, boverman@nmhf.org.

Randall Outdoor Pool - free for DC Residents, open Tues. through Friday, 1 pm to 8 pm. Sat. and Sunday Noon to 6 pm. Call 727-1420.

Camp Brown (Boys & Girls Clubs and Metro Police Dept.) - ages 7-13, \$100 per one-week sessions. Location: rural Maryland. Phone 397-CLUB, Ext. 8190, or 727-4381.

Camp Riverview (Dept of Parks & Recreation) - ages 7-12, \$95 per one-week sessions. Location; rural Maryland. Phone 673-7647. Special Services - Free Meals

Free meals to any youth up to age 18, June 15 to August 25 at all the DCHA Resident Council offices. Breakfast and lunch are served. Contact each Resident Council office for exact times.

Library Activities and Events:

Hours: 9:30 am to 5:30 Mon through Sat, open until 9 pm Mon. and Wed. Sunday hours: 1 pm to 5pm.

Summer Quest 2007 - ages 14 and under, visiting performers and computer use.

"Holla Back" - ages 12-19, write up each book you read and discuss with others.

Call the Library - 724-4752 for specific hours and to register for programs and special events.

Volunteer to Make It Happen for Southwest Youth

Can you, sew, knit, fix a lamp cord? Play a game, read a story, make a basket with either a ball or straw? Do you have a few hours this summer to give to the programs that will engage and enlarge the horizons of SW youth this summer?

Volunteers should contact Tamitha Christian, Deputy Director, South Washington/West of the River Family Strengthening Collaborative (SWWR), 202-488-7997 ext.16. She is providing a clearing-house for the volunteers for all the summer programs. You may fill out a short survey designed to help fit the volunteer to the program needs. All DC Public Schools and Department of Parks and Recreation programs have a required application process that involves a background check. Tamitha will guide you through this process and supply the needed forms that must be submitted ahead of time. Time is critical to have the needed volunteers for the beginning of the summer programs when school ends on June 15th.

Higher Achievement Celebrates Its Roots

By The Southwester Staff

Approximately 500 family members, mentors, and community supporters attended Higher Achievement's ninth annual Green Apple Awards, where Arne Duncan, Secretary of Education, was the keynote speaker. The ceremony recognized the program's 58 graduating scholars, as well as Higher Achievement's Green Apple Award recipients: Will Kirk, Dan and Karen Mayers, and the Community Foundation of the National Capital Region, for being strong partners, and providing sustainable resources for Higher Achievement.

Higher Achievement is a non-profit organization dedicated to developing academic skills, behaviors, and attitudes in motivated and underserved middle school children for the purpose of improving grades and performance on standardized tests. The program also boosts school attendance and increases educational opportunities by giving participants the tools to attend and succeed in college preparatory high schools.

Led by the scholars themselves, the

event's line-up included an African drumming performance, reflections from graduates of each of the five Achievement Centers, and an inspiring poem recited by Ward 6 Scholar Ambassador, Hakeem Bello. In his poem, Hakeem revealed that he will be attending Phillips Andover Academy next fall. His Ward 6 classmates have similarly impressive plans, as they will be attending rigorous institutions such as Gonzaga College High School, Duke Ellington School for the Performing Arts, and Benjamin Banneker Academic Senior High School.

Jessica Thomas, a Southwest resident and mentor at Higher Achievement's Ward 6 Center, commented on the evening. "I have been so impressed with Higher Achievement's commitment to excellence and with the enthusiastic spirit of everyone involved. I strongly encourage anyone invested in the youth of Ward 6, and in education in this city, to volunteer."

For more information on opportunities to get involved with Higher Achievement, please visit their website, www.higherachievement.org.



Graduates of SWNA's Computers for Kids and Sassy Seniors classes, left to right: First row, Jennifer Hawkins, Alayah Brown, Dèmar Williams. Second row, Carolyn Mitchell, Ruth Cuestas, Angeline Copeland, Odessa Alston. Last row, Craig Ferguson, Christopher Harris, Gerald Brown, Roscoe Holley.

Progress at Canal Park

By The Southwester Staff

Named for the historic Washington Canal, which connected the Anacostia River and the Potomac River via the National Mall, Canal Park will grace a three block area between 2nd Street and 2nd Place, and stretch from M to I Street in Southeast. Until last month, the site was used as a school bus parking lot. Although Mayor Williams awarded the design contract for the park in 2004, delays mounted, and a new team, The Olin Studio of Philadelphia, was chosen in 2009 to create a new design. The buses have been relocated, the fences removed, and pavement dug up in

order to sod the area while awaiting the start of construction in 2010. See the updated design at <http://www.ifmm.com/canalparkdc/index.html>.



Voices of Now Ensemble and Mentor Ensemble to Appear at St. Augustine's

The 2009 Arena Stage Voices of Now Ensemble and Mentor Ensemble will perform two short one-act plays at the Art & Spirit Coffeehouse, St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, 600 M Street, SW, on Wednesday, June 3 at 7 p.m. The free evening includes coffee and desserts, followed by a Q&A with the audience, facilitated by Michael Mack, an interdisciplinary artist and thinker.

Ashley Forman, Arena's Director of Education, Programming, explains, "Student actors from Southwest's Jefferson Middle School are selected to work with professional theater art-

ists from Arena Stage to create and perform an original one-act play." She continues, "Voices of Now gives students a holistic, artistic experience and challenges them to recount the stories that shape their lives."

Time Out is the name of the original play written and performed by the Voices of Now Ensemble "to explore our fast paced, time-obsessed world through the imaginations of middle school students who are trying to find out what happens at the moment you turn thirteen." Ensemble students include sixth graders Jazzmin Camara, Rugie Jolloh, Shakira Reed, Chrisdane Womack and eighth graders Ky'lend Adams, DeLante Fludd, Monique Garey, Taelor A. Price, and Carita Star. Ms. Forman directs *Time Out* with Psalmayene 24, Master Teaching Artist, and Assistant Director/Stage Manager Mitch Mattson, Community Engagement Senior Intern.

Voices of Now Mentor Ensemble, according to Mattson, are high school actors who previously participated in the Voice of Now Ensemble. He



explains, "The mentors have two jobs—the first is to guide a new group of young actors through the demanding artistic process of the Voices of Now program. The second is to serve as artistic role models by creating and performing their own one-act play."

Members of the Mentor Ensemble are Victoria Davies, sophomore, Charles H Franklin IV, freshman, and Joel Joseph all from Duke Ellington School of the Arts; Roderic David, junior, Maret School; Shannon Hutton, freshman, Dr. Henry Wise High School; Dominique Huertas, senior, School Without Walls Senior High School, Adrienne Mavritte,

junior, Business and Finance Academy at HD Woodson; Laneisha McCauley, freshman, Cardozo Senior High School; and Siera Toney, junior, Benjamin Banneker Academic High School. Their original play is *Precipice*, which "examines the lives of eight high school students who are living on edge in a culture that is always feeling the threat and fear of what will come next" and is directed by Forman and Mattson.

The Southwest Episcopal Church's Art & Spirit Coffeehouse series opens on the first Wednesday of each month to showcase local artists in their various media as they perform and share how their faith, art and social worldview intersect, according to the Rev. Martha Clark, Priest-in-Charge at St. Augustine's. Donations will be accepted to help provide honorariums for the guest artists. Contact rector@staugustinesdc.org, 202-554-3222 or visit www.staugustinesdc.org for further information.



+ Spiritual Calendar +

Neighborhood Religious Services

Bethel Pentecostal Tabernacle of the Assemblies of God

60 I Street, SW
Sunday: 10:45 a.m.; Friday: Prayer and Bible Study: 8 p.m.

St. Augustine's Episcopal Church

600 M Street, SW
Sunday: 9 a.m.; Tuesday 6:30 p.m. Evening Prayer

St. Dominic Catholic Church

603 E Street, SW
Saturday: 5:15 p.m.; Sunday 8 a.m., 10:45 a.m., 12:15 p.m. (Spanish), and 5:15 p.m. Weekdays: 8 a.m. and 12:10 p.m.

St. Matthew's Baptist Church

New Jersey Avenue, SE
Call 488 7298 for service times.

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

22 M Street, SW (worshiping at First Trinity Lutheran Church, 501 4th Street, NW)
Sunday: 10:30 a.m.

St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church

14 M Street, SE
Sunday: 8 a.m.
Mon., Tues., Thur., Fri.: 12:10 p.m.

Second Baptist Church

1200 Canal Street, SW
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Gardening Advice for Small Spaces



Home & Garden

By The Southwester Staff

We sat down with garden expert Matthew Roberts to ask him what he recommends for the balconies and terraces typical of Southwest.

For a shady balcony, he suggests going with a Zen concept. Plant Japanese maples in glazed planters, and mulch them with river rocks or mosses. Dwarf maples come in reds and greens, which turn to bright orange or yellow in the fall. Through the winter, you can enjoy the bare structures of the branches.

On a sunny balcony you can go with tried and true annuals, which give you great color throughout the season. You see geraniums in Italian window boxes because of the bright summer sun, which we also get here in D.C. Potted plants



Dwarf Japanese Maple

dry out quickly, so you might want to go with drought-resistant sun-lovers like Lantana and Portulaca.

If your plants start to appear wilted or stunted, look closely at the stems and leaves: tiny green aphids could be feeding on the liquid inside. To control these insects, Roberts suggests using ladybugs, a natural predator. Hose down your plants first, then release the

"Spring is a great time for growing anything."

—Matthew Roberts,
Master Gardener

ladybugs near the bottom of the stems to keep them in your garden. You can also use an oil-based organic spray, or, for a chemical solution, anything containing Permethrin. Remember to apply chemical pesticides in limited quantities.

Matthew Roberts is the Master Gardener on staff at Ginko Gardens, 911 11th St. SE.

Youth Community Garden Comes to SW

By Dawn Trainor-Fogleman

The lot for St. Matthews Lutheran Church on M and 3rd Street is now cleared, but Pastor Huber and his congregation do not intend for it to lie fallow in the year or so leading up to the start of construction of the new church. Instead, they plan on using the cleared space for a variety of events including a community yard sale, bake sale, health fair, and carnival. It is hoped

that the space will also be used for a Southwest Wine Festival.

The congregation is also hosting a community garden for young folks and their families to develop an appreciation of plant life and to gain first-hand knowledge of where food comes from. The church is providing supervision, tools, and mentoring. They are asking for certain participant commitment to ensure a full growing season.

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Justice Marshall's Legacy in Southwest

By The Southwester Staff

Cissy Marshall, the wife of the late Justice Marshall, has been an active parishioner at St. Augustine's Episcopal Church since living in Southwest. Mrs. Marshall consented to the call box being named in honor of her late husband, and requested that Ms. Annie King Phillips create the collage for it.

St. Augustine's Episcopal Church is in the process of presenting Thurgood Marshall for inclusion in the Church's Book of Lesser Feasts and Fasts, as reported on in The Southwester last month by Elaine Graves.

Mrs. Marshall has always shown great passion for Southwest. Residents were privileged

to have Justice Marshall counted among their number. Other Supreme Court Justices have lived in the neighborhood: Louis F. Powell, who was on the court from 1972 to 1987 and Justice David Souter, who recently announced his retirement from the court.

To help raise greater awareness of Justice Thurgood Marshall's contributions to the global society, Southwest Neighborhood Assembly's Youth Activities Task Force (YATF) in partnership with the World Bank-International Monetary Fund African American Association will conduct a session with the 4th & 5th Graders at Amidon-Bowen Elementary. The students will visit a perma-

nent mini-display on Marshall which will be unveiled in the school's library, followed by a reception. Students will also be introduced to the fall curriculum on Justice Marshall. The six-week awareness raising sessions will include guest speakers as well as interactive hands on material such as books, videos, word games, puzzles, photographs and a tour of the Thurgood Marshall Center. Funding for the program has also been provided by River Park Friends.

YATF Coordinator Thelma Jones, who is also the founder and president emeritus of the World Bank-IMF African American Association, hopes that the Justice Marshall

Awareness Raising Program will become an annual part of the students' learning process noting that "YATF and the World Bank-IMF African American conducted a similar program at Anthony Bowen ES several years ago and received rave reviews from the students, school and the wider community. The program is returning by popular demand." The program will not only help to raise awareness about Justice Marshall's but will also help students to consider careers in the legal arena. In addition, the students will have an opportunity to examine how the 1954 landmark Supreme Court decision continues to impact their lives.

Schooner Will Show Southwest History

By Thelma D. Jones

River Park Friends (RPF) awarded a \$1500 grant to the Pearl Coalition, a nonprofit organization, whose mission is to foster a modern cultural understanding of slaves, slavery, and escapes from slavery, in the Washington, DC metropolitan area. The mission will facilitate cultural offerings designed to educate visitors on the array of racial, social, economic factors, contributions of the people and places involved in the Pearl escape, and the inner-workings of the Underground Railroad. The largest slave escape in the history of the United States occurred one night after midnight on the Potomac River where more than 70 free and enslaved African Americans from Washington, DC attempted to escape to freedom from the Southwest Waterfront on The Pearl Schooner in 1848.

The \$1,500 grant to the Pearl Coalition will be used for media and public relations supplies and materials to help raise awareness of the story of The Pearl, which exemplifies the strength and dignity of enslaved African Americans and their free families taking matters into their own hands.

The Pearl Coalition is purchasing a schooner which will be housed, restored, and become a permanent exhibit on the Southwest Waterfront. Other fundraising efforts are underway to provide resources for the restoration and other needs.

A second grant for \$1000 was awarded to the SWNA-YATF to assist with both ongoing and new programs. Successful ongoing programs include the Computer-for-Kids Program which has now graduated 37 students ages 6-13, field trips, and Safe Sitter (babysitting) training. New programs will include a six-week awareness raising program on Justice Thurgood Marshall, including books, video, word games and puzzles and photographs. The grant will also help to establish a permanent mini-display on Marshall at Amidon-Bowen Elementary which will complement the



The Valkyrien Schooner to begin Programing at the SW Waterfront and on the Anacostia and Potomac Rivers. The Valkyrien will be renamed "The Spirit of the Pearl". Photo from www.pearlcoalition.org

recently established display on Justice Marshall at the Southwest Library. Thurgood Marshall was both the first African American Supreme Court Justice and a former Southwest resident whose legacy is still deeply felt in the community.

According to YATF Co-Chairs Beryl Rice and Rick Bardach, last summer, YATF youth visited Six Flags, The Arc in Southeast to see a City at Peace youth play, several baseball games, and the Reginald Lewis Museum in Baltimore, MD, including visiting the Thurgood Marshall statue and enjoying lunch and a leisurely stroll at the Harbor Place. "River Park Friends feels that these types of activities are both fun and enriching. Consequently, we are pleased to provide support to YATF," said RPF President Coralie Farlee. This is the second grant YATF has received from RPF; the first one was for \$735 to support the Computer-for-Kids program in 2008.

RPF is encouraged by the response to the \$5,000 matching pledge by an anonymous donor during its March annual meeting. Your matching contribution (dollar for dollar) helps to ensure that RPF supports worthy community organizations such the Pearl Coalition and SWNA-YATF. Residents and businesses may make contributions payable to River Park Friends and send to President Coralie Farlee, 389 O Street, SW, Washington, DC 20024. For more information, please call President Farlee at (202) 554-4407 or e-mail cfarlee@mindspring.com.

Walkers Bring Hope to the Hungry

By Corinne Scott

On Saturday morning, April 25th, 110 walkers, mostly from Southwest churches and community groups, walked on a three mile route through the neighborhoods of Southwest, on the annual Washington DC CROP Hunger Walk, to raise awareness and funds for local hunger-fighting agencies and international relief and development programs, through the cooperative ministry of Church World Service.

Walkers gathered in a festive mood on the lawn in front of Christ United Methodist Church at 4th and I Street SW. They received a warm send off by Ward 6 Council Member Tommy Wells and representatives of Church World Service, Martha's Table, DC Hunger Solutions, and South Washington/ West of the River Collaborative, to whom the funds were designated. At the end of the walk,

Westminster Presbyterian Church members welcomed back the walkers with refreshments. Thanks were expressed for the support received from local businesses, Jenny's Asian Fusion and Safeway for food and drink, and Frager's Hardware for equipment.

Through this year's walk, sponsors contributed \$16,624, Riverside Baptist Church walkers raising the most — \$6,337, and Riverside's Ambassador Mattie Sharpless again being the top individual fund raiser — \$1,775. Walkers also donated non-perishable food items for the Collaborative's food pantry. The walk was joined by two groups from other parts of DC as well — Palisades Community Church in NW and Florida Avenue Baptist Church in NE DC.

CROP stands for Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty. This walk is one of

Continued on Page 11



Photo by Perry Klein.

Last Titanic Survivor Dies

Millvina Dean, who as a baby was wrapped in a sack and lowered into a lifeboat in the frigid North Atlantic, died recently at the age of 97, the last survivor of 1912 sinking of the RMS Titanic.

Only six weeks ago, members of the Men's Titanic Society toasted those lost in the famous maritime disaster at the Washington Titanic Memorial on the Southwest Waterfront. The monument's inscription reads "To the brave men who perished in the wreck of the Titanic April 15, 1912. They gave their lives that women and children might be saved... Erected by the Women of America."



Fitness and Nutrition

By Derrick Inglut

As technology advances, more Americans than ever find themselves in front of a computer for their 8 hour or longer workday. Excessive hours of leaning over a keyboard can wreak havoc on your posture and increase the probability of spinal disk injury. However, there are some simple exercises that can counteract the stress placed upon the back during your workday to keep you looking and feeling your best.

To keep your posture in check, you must develop your rhomboid muscle. A strong

Get (Your) Back Into Shape

rhomboid will pull your shoulders to the rear and round out the chest. It is especially important to work this muscle if your occupation requires you to be seated for extended periods of time, because this comes with increased odds of slouching. Over time, slouching can develop a slightly "hunch back" look also known as Postural Kyphosis, a muscular imbalance common in the young and old.

There are a number of exercises that can effectively work the rhomboid without too much effort. But, for this article, I will restrict it to what can be done in your office without equipment. The Rhomboid typically involves any pulling movement to the rear. When you open a drawer or car door, you are engaging your Rhomboid. However, this is not enough resistance to fully develop the muscle.

On order to effectively develop this muscle, try reverse pushups. If you have an open ended desk, lie under it and extend your feet as outward as possible. For cubicle workers, you will have to reverse the direction of your body and lay your head underneath the desk for more space. Grab the front lip of the desk and pull your chest up to it. For a less difficult approach, try keeping your knees bent at 90 degrees. Push with your feet to assist your arms. Do 5 sets. Start with 15 and work your way down by 3's for each set. Practice twice per week.

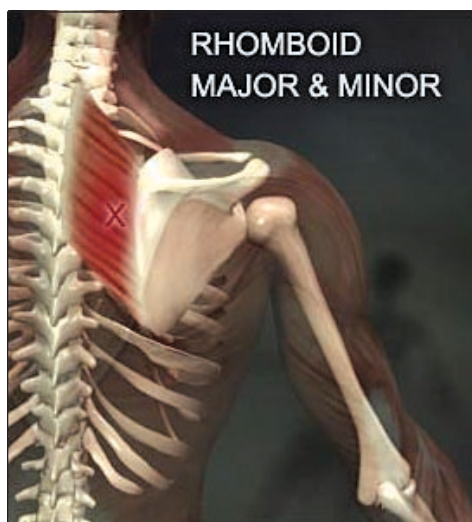
The back also faces additional stresses when sitting down. The majority of the stress is placed on 2 disks in the lumbar area of the lower back, specifically the L4 and L5. These

two disks are responsible for a large portion of our mobility and are supported by the Erector Spinae. If it is not exercised regularly it can weaken easily.

"Supermans" do a great job strengthening the Erector Spinae. Lie on the floor face down on your stomach. Reach your arms straight out in front of you and keep your legs straight. For 10 seconds at a time, raise both your legs

and arms of the ground as high as you can (at the same time), being sure not to bend your knees. Repeat this 15-30 times at least twice per week. For further video instruction, visit www.derrickinglut.com.

Derrick Inglut is a personal trainer who writes on exercise and nutrition.



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A Simple Idea for Eating Well

By David Sobelsohn

Why does a McDonald's cheeseburger cost less than a salad? Maybe because meat and dairy producers get 73.8% of federal food subsidies, while only 15.5% goes to fruits, nuts, grains, legumes, and vegetables.

This revelation is just a tidbit from the Northwest Earth Institute's discussion guide "Menu for the Future."

Across America, a movement is growing of people determined to simplify their lives. For many adherents, "simplicity" represents a purposeful way of living simply in a complex, consuming society. It means consciously reducing the stress on ourselves and on our environment.

America's simplicity movement dates back to Henry David Thoreau and Walden Pond. Its most recent resurgence found its basic source document in Duane Elgin's 1981 bestseller *Voluntary Simplicity*. Later, Cecile Andrews's *The Circle of Simplicity: Return to the Good Life* (1998) described how people could form small groups to share simplicity strategies. Andrews called these groups "simplicity circles."

Since 2002, the Simplicity Matters Earth Institute has helped start more than 215 simplicity circles in DC, Maryland, and West Virginia. In Virginia, the Chesapeake Earth Institute has started over 100.

This past winter, a simplicity circle met

Continued on Page 10

World Bank, SW Resident Organize to Raise Breast Cancer Awareness

By Thelma D. Jones

Southwest civic leader and breast cancer survivor Thelma Jones took her breast cancer advocacy to a global level while maintaining true to her local roots when she organized a well-received breast cancer lecture at the World Bank. Sponsored by the World Bank Group's Health Services Department (HSD), Jones spoke before World Bank staff members, retirees, medical professionals, and a host of residents from DC's Southwest neighborhood.

Simulcast in Dakar, Senegal, Douala and Yaounde Cameroon, the lecture was entitled, "The Changing Face of Breast Cancer". The guest speaker was Dr. Funmi Olopade, Professor of Medicine and Human Genetics, and Director, Cancer Risk Clinic at the University of Chicago Medical Center.

Jones worked closely with HSD's Lorraine Nagy, Head of the World Bank Group-IMF Breast Cancer Support Group to identify a speaker with special interest in women of

Continued on Page 10

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By The Southwester Staff

Nat's News

The month of May brought life to many of the Washington Nationals Baseball Charity events. An Equipment Drive collected over six bins of baseball equipment as well as cash donations during two games on May 1st and 2nd. The collected equipment



Sports

and money, along with a \$5,000 grant from the Baseball Tomorrow Fund, was shared among the DC Public High School Athletic Departments.

Reading is Fundamental paired with the

Nationals for several events to promote reading and literacy among the young people of Washington through book donations to elementary schools all over the District. The events were kicked off by a book reading at Kimball Elementary on May 19th. Later that evening, the team hosted its Reading is Fundamental night at a game at Nationals Park.

In an effort to improve the cleanliness of the Anacostia River and its surrounding, the Nationals sponsored NatsTown Green-Up to pick up trash, plant flowers and trees, and mulch garden areas. The Earth Conservation Corps partnered with the Nationals to unite groups including Alion Science and Technology, the Capitol Riverfront BID, Capital Rowing Club, HNTB Corporation, Sidwell Friends, Waste Management, and Hard Times Café, Gifford's Ice Cream & Candy Company

as they "rallied round the river" in a one day clean-up effort which included both sides of the Anacostia. The event was held on May 22nd and free tickets were given out to volunteers to Nationals and Orioles games. The volunteers from these organizations, as well as residents of Southwest, worked together to collect 50 bags of trash from the Anacostia River. Volunteers also removed tires, traffic cones, lawn chairs and spools from the river.

Washington Nationals players capped off the month with a visit to Walter Reed Army Medical Center, together with members of the Baltimore Orioles. They distributed caps and t-shirts as well as tickets to the series opener against the Orioles at Nationals Park in honor of Memorial Day.



Screech, the Washington Nationals Mascot, on the Waterfront



Lapidus Restaurant.

Capitol Skyline Opens New Restaurant and Other Amenities

Community fixtures are a solid part of Southwest. One such fixture is the Capitol Skyline Hotel at S. Capitol and I Street. Famed hotel architect Morris Lapidus created this signature "Miami Beach Resort" style building, one of his smaller scale works. His work is found in other DC neighborhoods. One notable example is the Washington Plaza Hotel in Thomas Circle.

Last year, after leaving the Best Western umbrella, the Capitol Skyline embarked on a huge interior remodel. The entire lobby has been redecorated with modern furniture and accessories. A brand new fitness room flanks the lobby. Chief among the improvements is the pool and surrounding poolside area. The hotel opened its remodeled pool and adjacent lounge on Memorial Day Weekend. The pool area is open to membership and will feature special

guests on the weekends for events, including past contestants of "Top Chef".

A new restaurant is also part of the major remodel of Capitol Skyline. "Lapidus" is an American cuisine restaurant which is open seven days a week for breakfast, lunch and dinner, and boasts a full bar. There is finally another option in Southwest to meet and have a meal. The hotel offers a myriad of transportation options for guests and provides two levels of underground parking.



Newly remodeled Capitol Skyline pool.

Awareness

From p. 9

African descent. Nagy noted that African and African-American women are at higher risk for more aggressive types of breast cancer and more likely to be diagnosed at a younger age.

Serving as the event's emcee, Jones stated: "It is our hope that today's breast cancer lecture will inspire and reach many others throughout the world — both locally and globally — who are grappling with the knowledge explosion about cancer, the challenging and complex patient choices, and the distress and confusion of being a lay person seeking answers in a very complex, high tech world in the midst of a downturn in the economy."

"Part of what we have to overcome is cultural issues," said Dr. Olopade, stressing the need for local capacity building because of the variety of cancer subtypes that are encountered across the world." She stated that because of this there is an urgent need to develop diagnosis, treatment and counseling methods that reflect the particularities of each population group. Dr. Olopade called upon development institutions such as the World Bank to play a role in making sure that proper resources are allocated to cancer and other diseases that put an important part of the working population in Africa at risk and yet are no less deadly than HIV/AIDS. "But if you actually look at the numbers of people dying of cancer, it's unbelievable, and the statistics are not being kept," said Dr. Olopade.

Other guest speakers included breast cancer survivor Elaine Wolfensohn, spouse of former World Bank President James Wolfensohn, and colon cancer survivor Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, World Bank Managing Director, who both described their own struggles with cancer and the stigma associated with it. They encouraged women of all ages to undergo voluntary

screening in order to facilitate early detection. Both Wolfensohn and Okonjo-Iweala have mentored Jones extensively on her cancer journey since her diagnosis in May 2007.

The lecture was complemented with centers of excellence booths generously stocked with samples and information on breast cancer and other forms of cancer, representing Georgetown University, Johns Hopkins University, The Wellness Community, American Cancer Society, and Sisters Network, Inc., among others.

Because of her heritage, Jones reached out globally; however, she is still focused on advocating locally, especially for low-income women in her Southwest/Near Southeast community. She is always reminded of the importance and impact of her monthly support group meeting. "Experience tells us, however, that by asking questions and by continually educating ourselves we become not only our own best advocates, but also a support to our community of survivors with whom we share the experience of the diagnosis, treatment and 'life beyond' cancer journey," said HSD Nagy.

Jones is an active member of the World Bank Group-IMF Breast Cancer Support Group and frequently relies on the Bank's resources for her breast health advocacy efforts, including inviting Lorraine Nagy to serve as a panelist during SWNA's meeting on breast cancer last October. The World Bank Group-IMF Breast Cancer Support Group is made up of 107 staff members, retirees, and spouses from 25 countries who come together by email and for monthly meetings, to give each other mutual support, information on breast cancer treatment, and outreach to newly-diagnosed women. All that is said and written in connection with these meetings is confidential.

Eating Well

From p. 9

regularly in Southwest DC and on Capitol Hill. Members shared life lessons on reducing time spent answering e-mail and on exercising what one member calls "volunteer selectivity."

On June 11, at 7:30 p.m., in a Capitol Hill living room, this group will launch a

seven-session discussion of "Menu for the Future" with the question "What's Eating America?" Naturally, sessions will include light refreshments. Before each session, participants should read the relevant chapter in "Menu for the Future." Participation is free, but requires a reservation.

To RSVP and arrange for a copy of "Menu," call 202-546-3933 or e-mail mpb56054@yahoo.com.

Arena Stage Brings New Voices to SW

By Elaine Graves

Arena Stage's 2009 Voices of Now Ensemble and Mentor Ensemble will perform two short one-act plays at the Art & Spirit Coffeehouse, St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, 600 M Street, SW, on Wednesday, June 3 at 7 p.m. The free evening includes coffee and desserts, followed by a Q&A with the audience, facilitated by Michael Mack, an interdisciplinary artist and thinker.

Ashley Forman, Arena's Director of Education, Programming, explains, "Student actors from Southwest's Jefferson Middle School are selected to work with professional theater artists from Arena Stage to create and perform an original one-act play." She continues, "Voices of Now gives students a holistic, artistic experience and challenges them to recount the stories that shape their lives."

Time Out is the name of the original play written and performed by the Voices of Now Ensemble "to explore our fast paced, time-obsessed world through the imaginations of middle school students who are trying to find out what happens at the moment you turn thirteen."

The Voices of Now Mentor Ensemble, according to Mattson, are high school actors who previously participated in the Voices of Now Ensemble. He explains, "The mentors have two jobs—the first is to guide a new group



of young actors through the demanding artistic process of the Voices of Now program. The second is to serve as artistic role models by creating and performing their own one-act play."

Their original play is *Precipice*, which "examines the lives of eight high school students who are living on edge in a culture that is always feeling the threat and fear of what will come next" and is directed by Forman and Mattson.

The Southwest Episcopal Church's Art & Spirit Coffeehouse series opens on the first Wednesday of each month to showcase local artists in their various media as they perform and share how their faith, art and social worldview intersect, according to the Rev. Martha Clark, Priest-in-Charge at St. Augustine's. Donations will be accepted to help provide honorariums for the guest artists. Contact rector@staugustinesdc.org, 202-554-3222 or visit www.staugustinesdc.org for further information.



CBCC

From p. 3

hood Assembly, the Advisory Neighborhood Commission, the South Washington West of the River Family Strengthening Collaborative, and local resident councils. When it was originally started, the CBCC proposed to address the fragmentation of our community by bringing together members of the many community organizations to ensure that we are complementing and not duplicating each others work. While maintaining that original goal, it has since expanded its mission to include much more.

As too many residents of Near Southeast/Southwest are acutely aware, previous attempts to develop our area (pejoratively referred to as gentrification) have left current residents behind. Moreover, efforts to spread development benefits—whether through The Portals, Wiley Branton CDC, or some other group—have also fallen flat.

The CBCC was founded on the premise that we would not settle for another period of development that does not benefit the people already living here. The local leaders that got involved with the CBCC began to assert that neighborhood developers owe the community more than simply what is required by law—that they should compensate the community for the inconveniences inherent in development and should act not to build buildings, but to build relationships, becoming long-term partners with us.

In 2007, the CBCC held a set of commu-

nity roundtables designed to move beyond the generic benefits required by law, and instead identifying specific programs to aid our community. As a result of these roundtables, the CBCC put together a list of four community priorities: (1) A workforce/community campus, (2) housing, (3) a community fund, and (4) neighborhood-oriented retail.

Working through the ANC to negotiate community benefits agreements with developers, the CBCC is starting to get respect for these priorities. Councilmembers Tommy Wells and Kwame Brown have said that they support these priorities, and other members of the government have also used them as a ruler when considering PUDs. In fact, the Mayor's office most recently chose a developer for the new Southwest fire station based upon the developers' commitment to these benefits.

As the CBCC currently works to make its existence official through incorporation and application for non-profit status, it is considering its potential roles in the community. Beyond its function as a coalition of like-minded groups, it is also considering how it might help negotiate for and oversee the implementation of community benefits.

Well aware of the difficult history it must overcome, the CBCC hopes to make a quick impact and demonstrate to Near Southeast/Southwest residents that, through organization and cooperation, we can ensure that community benefits really do live up to their name.

Peter Atlee is the secretary of the Community Benefits Coordinating Council.



Oakland Girls Choir to Perform June 24

By Elaine Graves

The Oakland Girls Choir of Pittsburgh has selected St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, 600 M Street, SW, as one of its performance venues for its annual summer tour to present its 2009 spring concert, *Voices of Women*, on Wednesday, June 24 at 7:30 p.m., announces the Rev. Martha Clark, Priest-in-Charge of St. Augustine's. A reception will follow the free concert.

The *Voices of Women* spring concert is described as a "breathtaking style of vocal melodies and harmonies, ...featuring stunning musical settings of poems by Emily Dickinson, Christina Rossetti, Sara Teasdale, Jane Griner, Saint Teresa of Avila, Mother Teresa of Calcutta, Julian of Norwich, Hildegard of Bingen, and Mechtilde of Magdeburg."

Established in 2005, the Oakland Girls Choir of Pittsburgh provides an opportunity to experience the joy of singing in community and "is dedicated to bringing glory to God by pursuing artistic excellence through a system of choirs that are integrated racially and socio-economically in an environment of mutual respect and encouragement." The Tour Choir performs advanced treble repertoire throughout Southwestern Pennsylvania and tours nationally and internationally.

On a tour last year in Germany, a reporter for the Waidhofen Review wrote: "Standing ovations immediately followed

the powerful concert of the Oakland Girls Choir in the parish church of Waidhofen, in which every last seat and beyond was filled. Who says only boys choirs have clear voices with right tone quality? The girls choir from Oakland in Pennsylvania showed us otherwise."

Founder and Artistic Director Kathryn Barnard, a graduate of Concordia New York with degrees in Church Music



and Piano Performance, received her Masters of Music from the University of Texas. She's taught at the Peabody Preparatory School in Baltimore while studying vocal development at Westminster Choir College in Princeton, NJ and the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY. She has conducted numerous children's, youth, and adult ensembles in Baltimore, Buffalo and Pittsburgh.

For further information, contact St. Augustine's Episcopal Church at 202-554-3222, rector@staugustinesdc.org, or visit www.staugustinesdc.org.

Hope

From p. 8

more than 2000 CROP Hunger Walks taking place during the year all around the United States of America, which raised \$17 million to fight world wide hunger in 2008. Each local committee can direct 25% of the funds raised to meet the needs within their own community. The Washington DC committee has designated Martha's Table and DC Hunger Solutions as recipients, and helped to fill the shelves of the SW/WR Collaborative food pantry. 75% goes to Church World Service, which is engaged in relief and development

work in more than 80 countries around the world, including working on the ground to meet the urgent needs of refugees displaced by fighting between the Taliban and the army in Pakistan.

The slogan for CROP Walkers everywhere is "We walk because they walk," walking in solidarity with the millions of people around the world who walk daily for food, for shelter, for water, for survival. The local organizing committee encourages readers of The Southwester to join in next year's Washington DC CROP Hunger Walk, 2010.

Corinne Scott is Coordinator of the Washington DC CROP Hunger Walk, 2009.

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